

HOW TO SEAL A JUVENILE RECORD

In order to have a juvenile record sealed, you must go through an extensive judicial process. Refer to attached Florida Statute 943.059 for specific information.

Please note: You may only “seal” one case in a lifetime.

In simplified, layman’s terms, the following steps are required in order to “seal” a juvenile record:

1. You must file a petition with the Clerk of the Court, Juvenile Division, which requires a \$25 fee be paid. A certificate of eligibility must be obtained before moving forward with the procedure.
2. A separate petition must be filed with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), which requires a \$75 fee be paid. At this time, you must bring them a “certificate of eligibility” that is signed by the State Attorney and certified by the Clerk’s office. At this time, you will be required to submit fingerprints to FDLE.
3. Copies of the petition will be sent to the arresting agency, State Attorney’s office, and defense attorney (if applicable) for you.
4. At this time, the State Attorney can object to the procedure.
5. If the State Attorney does not object, that office will send the paperwork back to the Clerk’s Juvenile Division office.
6. The petition will be sent to the Juvenile Court, where a judge may or may not approve/sign off on the request to “seal” the file/record.
7. Upon receipt of information, the Clerk’s Juvenile Division, Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement, and the arresting agency will each delete the case/charge from their database. The actual record/file will not be accessible to anyone after this time.

Important Notes:

1. Sealing a record is a one-time process that parents should consider carefully before they use this ace card. (You never know what may happen in college)
2. We know of 6 agencies that will still ask for information if a file has been sealed. (Law enforcement, Teacher Certifications, HRS/Children and Families, Department of Health, and the Florida BAR Association)
3. Certain crimes such as drugs and sexual battery are not applicable under this statute.